

Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

Spring 2003 Number 9

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UPDATES: CALIFORNIA

California Emergency Medical Services News

New EMSC Coordinator

Effective January 1, Carol Biancalana will hold the post of EMS for Children Coordinator at the EMS Authority. Ms. Biancalana has served as the Communications Coordinator for the past six years, overseeing EMS dispatch and communications issues.

Rural Defibrillator Grants

The EMS Authority has received \$194,000 in funding for the "Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Project" from the Health Resources and Services Administration. These funds will be passed through to state and local emergency response agencies for implementing and expanding Automated External Defibrillator (AED) programs in eligible rural areas. This year's grant project made \$25 million available nationwide and required each state's EMS agency to take the lead applicant role for a statewide community partnership. The EMS Authority has identified 19 rural agencies that are eligible and interested in receiving these funds. It is anticipated that this grant project will be available for five consecutive years, pending congressional approval each year, and we will continue to apply for these funds.

Child Care Asthma Training Video

The Emergency Medical Services Authority Child Care Training Program is proud to announce the production of a video to teach childcare providers about children's asthma. The video is based upon the asthma curriculum that is currently being used by EMS Authority-approved training programs to train childcare providers who work in state-licensed childcare facilities. Legislation mandated special asthma training for childcare providers in 1998. The asthma curriculum was written by the American Lung Association's (ALA) Thoracic Society (the medical branch of the ALA) and the EMS Authority and was first distributed in January 2000. The curriculum and video include information for the layperson about asthma, including information about symptoms, triggers, medications, medication side effects, and the proper use of inhalers, nebulizers, and other asthma equipment. The video also comes with a discussion guide to enhance the training. The video, discussion guide, and curriculum will be available in English and Spanish. To learn more about it, please contact Lucy Chaidez at lucy.chaidez@emsa.ca.gov.

Paramedic Program Updates

Revised regulations: Regulations governing the training, licensing, and scope of practice of Paramedics will soon be reopened for revision, per the recommendations approved over four years by the Paramedic Taskforce, which is comprised of a group of 16 separate EMS constituent representatives.

AB 1655: This bill, which is moving through the Legislature, would authorize the EMS Authority to impose an administrative fine on any licensed paramedic who has committed specified conduct and would define "conviction" for these purposes. This bill would also require EMT-P employers to report in writing to the local EMS agency medical director and the EMS Authority any time specified actions are taken concerning an EMT-P, including the removal of an EMT-P from paramedic duties for disciplinary cause or reason.

Disaster Medical Services Guidelines

The Disaster Medical Systems Standards and Guidelines just went through a 60-day pre-public comment period (12/16/02-2/13/03). These guidelines are a product of a three-year Disaster Medical Standards project awarded to Mountain-Valley EMS Agency in 1999. The project was sponsored by the California EMS Authority through Federal Prevention Block Grant funds, and included representatives from various agencies throughout California. The goal of the Disaster Medical Systems Standards and Guidelines is of facilitating disaster medical preparation and response among local EMS agencies. This is accomplished through identifying and standardizing elements and functions for which the local EMS Agencies have primary responsibility for preparedness, response, and recovery activities. It is the intent of the EMS Authority to develop regulations based on the approved Medical Systems Standards and Guidelines to require standard emergency preparedness for local EMS agencies in the development of quality local disaster medical systems. These guidelines as well as the new draft guidelines for the Ambulance Strike Team are available for viewing at www.emsa.ca.gov/dms2/dms2.asp.

Reducing Impaired Driving and Increasing Seat Belt Use among Youth of Color

Through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) contract, Prevention Institute has initiated a project aiming to reduce impaired driving and increase seat belt use among youth of color in California. Prevention Institute is currently gathering data and information about youth attitudes and effective interventions to improve traffic safety outcomes among African American, Latino, and Native American youth, who are disproportionately affected by motor vehicle-related injury. If you are aware of effective traffic safety programs reaching youth, particularly youth of color, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Toni Gantz at toni@preventioninstitute.org or Danice Cook at danice@preventioninstitute.org, or by phone at (510) 444-7738.

NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

NOPUS Shows Dramatic Increases in Occupant Restraint Use

Young Children's Restraint Use at Record High

The National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS), an observational survey conducted periodically by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), revealed that restraint use among young children rose to a record level in 2002. An estimated 99% of infants under age one are now restrained, up 4 percentage points from 2000, and 94% of toddlers are now restrained, up 3 percentage points from 2000. The survey also found a strong link between adult driver restraint use and child passenger restraint use, a link that has been supported by other research. More than 90% of belted drivers restrain the children traveling in their vehicles, while only 70% of unbelted drivers restrain their child passengers. Male drivers are also restraining their children more often than they did two years ago, narrowing the seven-percentage-point disparity between men and women that was observed in 2000 to about one percentage point in 2002. For more information, visit

www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2003&filename=pr03-03.html.

Sharp Increase in Seat Belt Use among African Americans, Males, and Rural Populations

African Americans currently use safety belts 77% of the time, an 8 percentage point increase since 2000 and the highest rate reported in the nine years that NHTSA has been conducting NOPUS surveys. Belt use by members of other non-white ethnic groups increased nine percentage points as well, to 78% use. In the past two years, seat belt use by males increased five percentage points to 72%, narrowing the seat belt use gap between men and women from ten percentage points in 2000 to seven percentage points in 2002. Seat belt use in rural areas also increased five percentage points to 73%. The lowest seat belt use rate was seen among young drivers ages 16-24, at 69%, the same use rate observed in this age group in 2000. In comparison, the seat belt use rate for the overall U.S. population is 75%. For more information, visit

www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/pressdisplay.cfm?year=2003&filename=pr05-03.html and www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/airbags/demographic03-03/demographic.htm.

New Partners for Smart Growth

The 2nd Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference was held in New Orleans between January 30 and February 1, 2003. The conference was sponsored jointly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NHTSA, and a myriad of other public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including Prevention Institute and the California Center for Childhood Injury Prevention. About 1,000 participants attended, representing a very broad range of disciplines and regions, to learn more about smart growth approaches to urban design. Audiotapes of conference proceedings are now available at www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SmartGrowth/default.html.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

12th International Conference on Safe Communities

Date: March 18-20, 2003

Location: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong, China

For more information, contact:

E-mail: safety2003@oshc.org.hk

Web: www.safety2003.org.hk

America Moves

Date: April 3-4, 2003

Location: Sheraton Mesa Hotel & Convention Center, Mesa, AZ

For more information, contact:

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Maureen DeCindis

Maricopa Association of Governments

Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Elder Mobility

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E-mail: mdecindis@mag.maricopa.gov

Safety in Numbers: Working Together from Research into Practice

Date: April 28-29, 2003

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, GA

For more information, contact:

Trevia Pereira

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC

4770 Buford Highway NE, MS/K-65

Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

Phone: 770-488-4665

Fax: 770-488-1667

E-mail: TPereira@cdc.gov or OHCINFO@cdc.gov

Web: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/conference/default.htm

3rd Annual Senior Injury Prevention Conference

Date: May 1-2, 2003

Location: Oakland Airport Hilton, Oakland, CA

For more information, contact:

Colleen Campbell

Phone: 510-618-2047

Web: www.eldersafety.org

4th International Conference on Walking in the 21st Century: Health, Equity, and Environment

Date: May 1-3, 2003

Location: The Portland Marriott Downtown, Portland, OR

For more information, contact:

Walk21-IV

c/o America Walks

Ellen Vanderslice, President

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Portland, OR 97296-9103

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E-mail: info@americawalks.org

Web: www.americawalks.org/walk21/

National DUI Enforcement Symposium

Date: May 14-16, 2003

Location: Omni Orrington Hotel, Evanston, IL

For more information, contact:

Northwestern University Center for Public Safety

Web: <http://server.traffic.northwestern.edu/events/dui.asp>

2nd International Safe Community Conference

Date: June 10-13, 2003

Location: Falun, Dalarna, Sweden

For more information, contact:

Web: www.falun.se/www/service/safe2003.nsf

American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association Conference

Date: July 27-30, 2003

Location: Hilton Hotel University Place, Charlotte, NC

For more information, contact:

American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association

Web: http://adtsea.iup.edu/adtsea/Conf/2003_conf.htm